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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/390,420	09/03/1999	BARRY W. FIELD	062891.0368	6854

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EXAMINER

BLOUNT, STEVEN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/390,420

Applicant(s)

FIELD ET AL.

Examiner

Steven Blount

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

A. The finality of the previous Office Action is withdrawn in view of the new rejections below. The examiner regrets any inconvenience this has caused the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1 – 12 and 14 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,018,525 to Sucharczuk in view of Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and either one of U.S. patents 6,434,166 to Buckland et al, or 6,272,128 to Pierson Jr.

With regard to claim 1, Sucharczuk teaches receiving traffic streams (at least channels 1 through 24 in figure 4; see also col 3, lines 9+ where extended frame format of these traffic streams is discussed), wherein A and B signaling bits (mentioned in col 3 lines 13+) “convert the voice band channel into an ATM, octets from the voice band channel are mapped into ATM cell octets. After 47 octets have been filled in a cell, a new cell is must be created.” (col 3, lines 50+) which corresponds to segmenting the first components of the traffic streams into successive cells; and also distributing the second (signaling) components of the traffic streams between a defined set of the cells for in band transmission of these second components in a payload of each of the cells, as is taught in col 3 line 37: “This means that the A and B bits remain embedded within the user information transported by the ATM cells” and in line 56 of Column 3: “A bits occur in the 6th octet, the 18th octet, the 39th octet, and the 42nd octet in the first cell. The next A bit will occur 12 octets later – in the 7th octet of the next cell payload.”

Sucharczuk does not explicitly teach the signaling elements ("CAS", see col 2 line 50) are of a "reduced rate" (claim 1, line 4). However, AAPa teaches that "The CAS bits indicate the on or off hook status of a telephony line in connection with a DS-0 and are provided at a reduced rate in comparison to the DS-0 in accordance with telephony standards. (Page 3, lines 10+ of the specification). AAPa also teaches on page 2, last line to page 3, lines 1+ that "Telephony traffic is carried in DS-0 channels that include an 8 bit voice sample transported through the network at regular 125 microsecond intervals. In the case of structured AAL1, a number of such DS-0 bytes are grouped together in the payload of an ATM cell then carried through an ATM network in the ATM cell."

Sucharczuk/AAPa do not, however, teach positioning the second components at the beginning of the payload of each cell.

Buckland et al teach positioning CAS bits associated with on/off hook status (see col 1, lines 37+ and note that page 3, lines 8+ of AAPa also associate the CAS bits with on/off hook status) at the beginning of the payload of a frame of information. See figure 1, column 1 lines 33+, col 2 lines 19+, and col 2 lines 65 to col 3 line 6.

Pierson Jr. also teaches the well known fact that data associated with signaling in an ATM system, such as the flow control parameter GFC, VPI and VCI address information, and cell loss priority CLP is carried at the front of an ATM cell, "at the beginning of the payload of each cell". See figure 4.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have associated the CAS elements of Sucharczuk with having a reduced

Art Unit: 2661

rate in light of AAPA, and further obvious to have positioned the second components of Sucharczuk/AAPA at the beginning of the payload of each cell, in light of the teachings of either one of Buckland et al or Pierson Jr., in order to provide a simplified design wherein the signaling information may be more easily located by the ATM system during the processing of the cells.

With regard to claims 2 – 12 and 14 – 28, see paper number 15 for a discussion of the rejection of these claims.

2. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,018,525 to Sucharczuk in view of Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and either one of U.S. patents 6,434,166 to Buckland et al, or 6,272,128 to Pierson Jr as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. patent 6,243,382 to O'Neil et al.

Sucharczuk/AAPA/Buckland or Pierson Jr teach the invention as described above, but do not teach storing a value for the reduced rate second components for each traffic stream in a memory location before insertion. This is taught in O'Neil. See column 18 lines 53+.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have stored the second components in memory before insertion, in light of the teachings of O'Neil, in order to allow the system to perform the assembly operation.

Remarks

3. The examiner has provided the Pierson Jr. and Sucharczuk references to illustrate the fact that it is well known in the art to carry signaling information in frames or cells at the beginning of the payload.

Art Unit: 2661

4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks


Washington, D.C. 20231

Or, the response may be faxed to: (703) 872-9306.

For formal communications intended for entry, or for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" OR "DRAFT".

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Steven Blount, whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 3071.

Examiner Blount may normally be reached Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 and 5:30. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Chau Nguyen, may be reached at 571 – 272 – 1980.


Ash Patel
Primary Examiner

SB



1/24/04